



Department of Natural Resources

Executive Director: Michael R. Styler

Divisions: Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Utah Geological Survey
Oil, Gas and Mining
State Parks and Recreation
Wildlife Resources
Water Resources
Water Rights

Full-Time Employees: 1,300

Contact Information: <http://www.nr.utah.gov/>
(801) 538-7200



Mission Statement: To sustain and enhance the Utah quality of life today and tomorrow through coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources.

Emerging Issues and Strategic Focus:

Utah is world renowned for its natural resources, which are most commonly thought of in terms of scenic beauty and unsurpassed recreational opportunities. The vast natural resources also play a significant role in sustaining life, boosting the economy, and enhancing the quality of life.

The seven divisions of the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must consider all of those important elements individually and as pieces of the greater puzzle.

Water is a key issue for DNR. Utah is the second most arid state in the nation. There are several areas of strategic focus. There is an increased demand for subsurface water. Disputes over interstate stream water rights and water adjudication in general will increase with the growth of the state's population.

Watershed issues are an area for strategic focus. We must effectively manage invasive and non-native plant species such as cheat grass and tamarisk and restore wild lands and wildlife habitat. We must also develop a greater public understanding and awareness of these issues.

Quagga or Zebra mussels top the list of other key issues within DNR. The mussels threaten to infest our lakes and waterways, which could destroy habitats, clog irrigation and pipeline systems, and damage recreational watercraft. Wildlife and fire protection problems with urban interface and encroachment, the aging infrastructure in our parks, and the continued rising demand for law enforcement are the other key issues.

The solutions to these problems cross federal, state, and local lines, and without partnerships we will not be successful. We will continue to pursue efforts to preserve and protect the natural resources of our great state for which we are known and at the same time, continue to promote the economic benefits of our natural resources.



Economic Development:

- DNR will continue to work with communities to improve watershed yields and develop and conserve water to meet the needs of future populations



Quality of Life:

- Focus resources on the positive manipulation of watersheds and the containment and control of Quagga and Zebra mussels to minimize adverse impacts
- Improve and renovate state park infrastructures and wildlife consumptive and non-consumptive opportunities, which are critical in meeting future demand
- Continue to invest time and resources in habitat development and other activities to protect these species so economic growth may continue



Education:

- DNR will continue to protect the state's water rights by providing solid hydrological information regarding the resource and by defending and equitably administering water rights



Governance:

- Where revenue levels can be enhanced, such as our parks, DNR has made a strategic shift towards the prioritization and development of recreational projects that generate the strongest internal rates of return. This effort will ultimately reduce reliance upon the general funds while creating optimal recreational opportunities for the public